

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 27, 28, and 30-34 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1-4, 27, and 28 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claims 5-12 and 29-31 are objected to as depending from respective rejected base claims, but indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Claims 32-34 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Swoboda, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034598 ("Swoboda"), and also as being anticipated by Sample, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0107682 ("Sample"). Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that neither Swoboda nor Sample teaches or even suggests the present invention. However, the rejection is believed to be moot in light of the amendments noted above.

In particular, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the features of canceled Claim 5, which was indicated as allowable, and have amended Claim 27 to include the features of canceled Claim 29, which was indicated as allowable. Therefore, Claims 1 and 27, and Claims 2-4 and 28 dependent therefrom, are believed to be in allowable form, and allowance of Claims 1-4, 27, and 28 is respectfully requested. Note that a minor amendment was made in Claim 2 to clarify the language in light of the amendment to Claim 1. No new subject matter is introduced by the amendment.

Objections

Claims 5-12 and 29-31 are objected to as being dependent from respective rejected base claims, but indicated as otherwise allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of allowable subject matter.

Applicants believe that all rejections have been overcome by the above amendments and that these objections have therefore been overcome. In particular, Claims 6-12 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 30 and 31 depend from Claim 27. Claim 1 corresponds to Claim 5 properly rewritten in independent form, and Claim 27 corresponds to Claim 29 properly rewritten in independent form. Note that Claims 6-8, 10, and 30 have been amended merely to maintain proper claim dependency in light of the above amendments. Applicants believe Claims 6-12, 30, and 31 are now in form for allowance, and allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to correspond to the original Claim 3. Applicant has also amended Claims 4, 6, and 10 such that Claims 4, 5, 6, and 10 do not depend from a rejected base claim, but include all the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. (Claim 5 depends from allowable Claim 4, and therefore was not amended.) Therefore, for at least these reasons, Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 10 are believed allowable as amended.

CONCLUSION

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the Applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-4641 .

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on November 12, 2007.

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